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## IDOT: No money on tap for U.S. 30 project

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**MORRISON** – Widening U.S. Route 30 to four lanes from Rock Falls to Fulton, and bypassing it around **Morrison**, probably won't happen for a long time, an IDOT official said Monday. Although it's been in the planning stages for years, the state doesn't have any **money** for the project now. If it did, construction could start in just a few years, said Becky Marruffo, a project engineer with the Illinois Department of Transportation.

"The reality is that it could be many years before it begins," Marruffo said.

IDOT is planning the improvements because traffic projections show that the road will need to be four lanes.

"We want to deal with what the traffic will be 20, 30 or 40 years from now," she said.

Last week, members of the **Morrison** Business Advisory Group, a city committee, expressed concern that the **bypass** would hurt central **Morrison** businesses rerouting traffic.

They also are frustrated with the state's delay in presenting information from a study **on** the **bypass**' financial impact **on Morrison**. It was originally supposed to be released in the fall.

The state now plans to present the study at a meeting of the business group this spring, Marruffo said, although she didn't have a specific date. The agency hopes to complete the financial impact report within the next few weeks, she said.

Officials also are planning a public hearing **on** the project in the summer, she said.

IDOT wants to work with the business community to lessen the impact of the **bypass**, she said, adding that signs and advertising could help drive traffic to central **Morrison**.

"We want to make sure to get input from the public and all of the participating agencies," she said.

Bob Vaughn, chairman of the Business Advisory Group, said the committee would keep the issue **on** its agenda.

"We keep the ball rolling in that group," he said.

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